



IN THIS ISSUE

Filing Deadline
Roadside Assistance
Renewable Energy
Air Source Heat Pumps

BOARD MEETINGS March 31 - 9:30 a.m. at Mountain Iron Service Center ■ April 28 - 9:30 a.m. at Cohasset Service Center

Mindful long-term investments to improve reliability and service

Lake Country Power is taking a proactive approach to improve the quality and reliability of your service and the co-op's electrical distribution system. Members can have peace-of-mind knowing their cooperative is making cost-effective and well-engineered investments in today's infrastructure that will benefit members now and into the future.

During the recent district member meetings, Derek Howe, LCP's chief operating officer and professional engineer, shared with members that the second largest reason for outages is due to aged infrastructure. The first reason is tree related and the third reason is ice and snow.

"Our operations and engineering team of employees is being proactive to replace Lake Country Power's aged infrastructure in a cost-conscious manner to keep rates as stable as possible," said Howe. "Our goal is to achieve a 90-year lifespan with the age-related replacements for both poles and wires."

To do that, Lake Country Power will replace 75 miles of

aged lines starting next year. The aged lines and poles date back to the 1940s and '50s. By late 2020, LCP will hire additional personnel to help meet this objective.

"More and more area utilities are ramping up their own line replacements, just like we're planning to do at Lake Country Power," said Mark Bakk, LCP chief financial officer. "Building our internal workforce will help insulate the co-op from the risk of bid pricing among various contractors, which also helps stabilize costs and rates."

The additional line personnel will be beneficial to also help with major outage restoration work, which will help reduce outage costs while expediting the process for members to have their power restored more efficiently.

2020 Plans

Overall, this year's total capital investment for engineering and operations is more than \$15 million to help meet LCP's mission – to deliver safe and reliable electric service for all members.

Part of the investment will be used to replace 45 miles

of aged lines and complete several line upgrades. Before any lines are replaced, it must meet at least one of the following sets of criteria as established by Lake Country Power's engineering department:

1. Age of the pole and line.
2. If the line serves more than 50 members.
3. LCP has 147 feeders. Each is categorized in numerical order by outage duration. The feeders that give the most frequent outages are targeted for replacement.
4. Engineers also look for lines that are heavily loaded.

Another part of the investment will be used for the Gunn and Cohasset substations.

Substations generally carry a 45-year lifespan. The Gunn substation has reliability concerns based on aged equipment so it will be rebuilt as a substation with underground service.

"With underground service, you don't have to worry



about birds, lighting or corrosion causing large-scale outages at the substation," said Howe. "We've seen improved reliability in the Big Sandy area after building that substation with underground service, so we plan to do the same with our other substations going forward."

The Cohasset substation will receive larger capacity regulators to match the transformer size and new electronic protective equipment – meaning the substation's capacity will be increased and reliability will be improved. Substation work will begin this summer and go through October. The age replacement work will begin after road restrictions are cleared.

To see the 2020 system project plans by location, please visit www.lakecountrypower.coop > Newsroom > Lake Country Power News > 2020 Construction Projects.

Stay in the know

Lake Country Power is constantly striving to improve its operational efficiency so the co-op can provide the most reliable electric service possible for their consumer-members.

LCP relies on data for nearly every aspect of its operations, which is why the co-op needs your help. By making sure LCP has your most accurate and complete contact information, co-op employees can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows

co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide links your service address to LCP's outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, LCP's system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps the co-op's outage

management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for crews to correct the problem.

While the co-op always does its best to maintain service, LCP occasionally plans outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, LCP can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages if your contact information is updated on co-op records. Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely that your account

information hasn't been updated for some time. Many members now use a cell phone as their primary phone service, and LCP might not have that number in its system.

LCP will never share your contact information with any third parties and is only used to send important information to you. Please take a moment to update your contact information online at www.lakecountrypower.coop > My Account > Update My Account. ■

Mike Forsman was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 2. He can be reached at 218-365-5789 and forsmanmd@hotmail.com.



By Michael
FORSMAN
District 2 Director

Connect with your Co-op

Annual Meeting is April 15

Be sure to save the date and attend this year's Lake Country Power annual meeting. Tours throughout the new service center will be available from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

- Lake Country Power Cohasset Service Center, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset
- 4:45 p.m. is registration and dinner. Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. All in the garage/warehouse area.
- The official notice of the annual meeting and ballots for electing directors will be mailed to all members of Lake Country Power between March 26 – 31.

Four Members meet filing deadline for board seats

The following LCP members met the filing requirements for nomination as a candidate for the co-op's board of directors. The nomination deadline was the close of business, February 5.

District 3:
George Harvey, Britt*

District 6:
Daniel Kingsley, Hill City*;

and Donald Simons, Grand Rapids

District 7:
Craig Olson, Culver*
* Denotes current LCP Director

Ballots will mail between March 26 and March 31. Online voting begins March 31, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. Central Standard Time, and ends April 14, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

Central time.

If voting online, instructions will be provided on your ballot. Otherwise, members in Districts 3, 6 and 7 may vote by mail with their paper ballot, or in person at the annual meeting before polls close.

Join us for co-op conversation and hot soup



DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TOWN/DISTRICT	RSVP BY
MAR. 19	5-7PM	Side Lake Community Center	Side Lake - District 3	MAR. 12

Between January and February, Lake Country Power has held eight district member meetings. One more meeting is scheduled for March. If you're looking for reliable and honest news you can count on in uncertain times, we have it. You're invited to hear it first-

hand from your local electric cooperative.

If you missed the previous meetings, join us in March or at the annual meeting on April 15 at LCP's Cohasset Service Center. The March meeting starts at 5:00 p.m.

with a light supper, followed by staff updates and time for member questions.

R.S.V.P. by calling Angie Hantula at 800-421-9959, extension 4521 or 218-322-4521, or e-mail ahantula@lcp.coop. ■

The grid: A complex set of wires, devices and tech keeping your lights on



When you unplug your phone, you expect it to be fully charged. When you go to flip a switch, you expect the lights to turn on. And when you press the button on your coffee maker, you expect to smell the sweet aroma as the good stuff begins to pour. But how does it all work?

Your electric cooperative, Lake Country Power, and its wholesale power provider, Great River Energy, work

together to ensure your electric devices operate as intended each time you go to use them.

Together, LCP and GRE keep the electrons flowing from power plants, wind and solar farms so that they reach you just as intended.

A complex set of wires, substations, transformers and switches are interconnected to ensure you have electricity when and where you need

it. High-voltage powerlines efficiently carry electrons at a larger and faster rate, so they can flow on distribution lines. Those electrons then “step down” to smaller voltages at substations eventually reaching your home, farm or business.

Great River Energy owns more than 4,500 miles of such high-voltage power lines and over 100 substations to provide resilient, reliable electric service.

When planning for new powerlines or substations, Great River Energy engineers look for the most robust solution at the lowest possible cost. With new technologies maturing every day and lower pricing available, Great River Energy works with Lake Country Power to ensure a resilient grid able to meet growing demand and address the complexities of integrating renewable resources. ■

IT ALL ADDS UP:

Investing in a reliable electric system

How much does a demand response unit (DRU) cost?

- A. \$173
- B. \$206
- C. \$97
- D. \$402



LCP will begin installing the new Adara DRUs in 2020, which will replace all the old load control receivers that have been used to control various EnergyWise® programs – dual fuel, off-peak storage space heating, cycled air conditioning, etc. LCP needs to do this exchange because the existing technology is obsolete and will be formally retired by LCP's wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy, by year-end 2025.

Answer: B

Roadside assistance available



LCP members with the Co-op Connections® Card or mobile app can receive 24-hour roadside assistance coverage through the program. The Co-op Connections program guarantees a cost of \$79.99 for any included emergency road service and a tow up to 15 miles.

The service is powered by Nation Safe Drivers, a premier provider of 24-hour towing and roadside assistance for over

50 years. With access to over 45,000 towing providers in the U.S.A. and Canada, you can travel with confidence.

If you don't have the Co-op Connections Card or mobile app handy, co-op members should still be able to call toll-free for assistance to 1-877-811-6002. If you have the mobile app downloaded, refer to the link in the Co-op Connections app for immediate service.

Emergency road service includes:

- **TIRE SERVICE:** Changing an inflated spare from mount to wheel
- **BATTERY SERVICE:** Attempting to start vehicle with a booster battery
- **DELIVERY SERVICE:** Delivery of 2 gallons of fuel
- **TOWING SERVICE:** Guaranteed 15 miles of towing. Additional mileage is available at \$5.00 per mile.
- **LOCKOUT:** A service vehicle will be dispatched to unlock your vehicles passenger compartment only.

Interested in more renewable energy?

Here are some ideas.

There are many reasons why cooperative members are interested in powering their homes with renewable energy. The good news is you're already making progress.

Renewable energy has skyrocketed over the past decade. Today, 30 percent of

your home's electricity comes from renewable resources, such as wind turbines located throughout the Midwest.

Lake Country Power's wholesale power provider, Great River Energy, has gradually added wind energy over time. In fact, Great River Energy's largest wind

farm started generating clean energy in December 2019, and the cooperative is on track to reach 50 percent renewable energy by 2030.

There are ways to add even more cost-effective clean energy to your life by partnering with your co-op.

Wellspringwind

Members who participate in the Wellspring wind program pay a modest additional cost for the energy that powers their home to be sourced from 100 percent renewable wind sources – 50 cents per 100-kilowatt-hour block of wind. The renewable energy is tracked and verified by the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System.

Wellspring solar

If you're interested in solar energy, the Wellspring program has an option with



electricity from the sun. It costs \$2.00 per 100-kilowatt-hour block of solar. The program is very similar to the wind option, except with a bit higher cost for solar energy.

For more information about signing up for the Wellspring program, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop (Start/Stop Service > Renewable Energy > then look for the Solarwise and Wellspring links at the bottom of the page), and call 800-421-9959 to sign up. ■



RECIPE CORNER

TOINI'S EASY FRUIT CAKE

From the Kitchen of:
Ginny Hatinen,
Esko

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. raisins
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- (Optional: yellow currants or yellow raisins)



DIRECTIONS

Boil above items 5 minutes in large saucepan. Remove from heat and add 1/4 cup butter. Let cool completely.

When cool, add 2 eggs and stir in by hand. Mix dry ingredients together:

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground cloves
- 1/2 tsp. ground allspice
- 1/2 tsp. salt

DIRECTIONS

After mixing, add dry ingredients to raisin mixture and stir by hand until well mixed.

Add well drained 12 oz. whole seedless maraschino cherries. Fold in cherries and 1 cup pecan halves (or more) and 1/2 cup – 1 cup chopped walnuts.

Grease two bread pans and line with wax paper. Bake in pre-heated 350-degree oven, 55 – 60 minutes. Cool and store in plastic bags. Refrigerate for a few days to age. Slice and serve like banana bread. Butter optional. Can also be baked in greased and lined angel food cake pan or greased Bundt pan, but bake for 1 1/4 hours (75 minutes).

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn: Editor, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55521, or e-mail tzaun@lcp.coop. If your entry is drawn and printed in Newsline, you'll receive a \$5 credit on your electric bill. Entries must include name, address and phone number on account.

Save money with Co-op Connections®

You work hard, so let The One Card That Does It All® work hard for you. Bring your Co-op Connections® Card to save money at the participating local businesses in northern Minnesota. If you don't have the card or lost your card, don't worry. You can download the App by searching "Co-op Connections" in the App Store on your Apple or Android device.

CORRECTION

Correction to the chocolate coconut ball recipe: It should be one pound of powdered sugar, not plain sugar.



For a full listing of business participants or assistance to download the App, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop (My Cooperative > Community > Co-op Connections Card – <https://www.lakecountrypower.coop/co-op-connections-card>).

If you travel across the United States or outside LCP's service area, look for national deals online at www.connections.coop.

GET AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPED

Get more out of a modern cooling system: year-round comfort and top-notch efficiency.



AIR CONDITIONER VS AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP



Cooling during warm summer days.

Absorbs inside heat and expels it from your home, then creates chilled air to push back into your home.

Wall units **lack efficiency**, as they only provide spot cooling and air can leak through window seals. Central air units are comparable to ASHPs in summer.

- Smaller upfront cost but does not offer heating.
- No installation rebates offered.

Can I use it year-round?



Heating and cooling through every season.

Is it versatile?



Works like an air conditioner in the summer, but offers the **versatility** of the reverse process to heat your home in the winter.

Is it efficient?



Super energy efficient, as the unit moves both cooled and heated air throughout the home.

Can I save money?



- **Large rebates**, as the unit moves both cooled and heated air throughout the home.
- **Sustained savings** through energy efficiency.

Bonus Winter Benefit:

Electric air source heat pump heating is **much more efficient** and **cost-effective** than fuel

heat technology, delivering up to three times more energy than the electricity it uses.

Pump up your savings with an air source heat pump. Contact LCP's member services

department at 800-421-9959, press 6, for more information.



Military personnel disconnection law

The 2007 Minnesota Legislature passed a law called the Military Personnel Disconnection Law. The law recognizes the value of military service and limits utility disconnections if a member of the household has been issued orders such as active duty, deployment, or for a permanent change in duty station during that period. To be eligible for disconnection protection, the member must contact

the cooperative to request a "Military Personnel Disconnect Protection Form," meet income eligibility guidelines and set up a mutually acceptable payment schedule.

Before disconnecting service to military personnel in situations as listed above, the cooperative must provide the following information: notice of proposed disconnection; statement explaining

customers' rights and responsibilities; list of energy assistance providers; disconnect protection form and a statement explaining the payment plan to secure continued service.

Please contact Lake Country Power, if you have any questions about the "Military Personnel Disconnection Law" or energy assistance programs.

Condensed Board Minutes

December 19, 2019 • Regular Monthly Meeting

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Craig Olson had several conversations with General Manager Randa about budget and LCP business.

General Manager Randa reported the district meetings are scheduled; and Mike Birkeland accepted an offer as executive vice president of the Minnesota Forest Industries and Minnesota Timber Producers Association with his last day at LCP on January 9.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved the 2020 capital and operating budgets and Budget Resolution to meet financial obligations as well as the mission

to serve members with safe and reliable electricity.

Approved the proposed revisions to four rate schedules with new EnergyWise rates effective January 1, 2020.

Approved a Fleet Replacement Resolution to stabilize the annual fleet budget and replacement of fleet assets. ■

Editor's Note: These board minutes have been condensed. A full copy of the board minutes can be read at www.lakecountrypower.coop under "My Cooperative." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a printed copy.



► This picture earned a spot in the co-op calendar for March. Cheryl Bunes of Bovey took this photo of a swan on Prairie River.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge.

Source: energy.gov

Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date – December 2019

	2019	2018
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 90,282,134	\$ 91,384,228
Cost of Purchased Power	46,128,555	47,555,862
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	15,168,723	13,709,316
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	4,443,688	4,333,707
Administrative and General Expense	6,679,934	5,944,543
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	17,022,169	15,812,939
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	89,443,068	87,356,367
Net Electric Operating Margins	839,065	4,027,861
Non-Operating Margins	2,585,476	2,666,709
TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES	3,424,542	6,694,570
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	760,832	518,219
TOTAL MARGINS	\$4,185,374	\$7,212,789
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	631,344,174	666,297,352

Editor's Note: These financials are condensed. A complete set of financials can be viewed at www.lakecountrypower.coop under "My Cooperative." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a copy.

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Directors are members of the cooperative and are elected to act in the best interests of the co-op with the same care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.

Directors set policy, approve strategy and are charged with fiduciary responsibility of the cooperative. Directors do not oversee day-to-day LCP operations. Administration of maintenance, electric service and operations are the responsibility of employees and staff.

Members with questions or concerns about service, billing, outages or other service-related matters should call 1-800-421-9959.

Newsline

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